

CLINTON F. PULSIFER.

JUNE 20, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILSON, from the Committee on Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3357.]

The Committee on Public Lands, having had under consideration the bill (S. 3357) for the relief of Clinton F. Pulsifer, of the State of Washington, report the same with the recommendation that it pass.

The facts in the case are fully set forth in the following letters from the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of the General Land Office:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 6, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference of your committee for views, of a copy of S. 3357, entitled "A bill for the relief of Clinton F. Pulsifer, of the State of Washington."

The bill providing for the payment to Mr. Pulsifer of \$276.52 for certain surveys and resurveys, was referred to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, a copy of whose report thereon, dated the 3d instant, I inclose herewith.

For reasons stated the Commissioner has recommended that the bill be enacted into law, and I concur in that recommendation.

Very respectfully,

THOS. RYAN,
Acting Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., June 3, 1898.

SIR: I am in receipt by your reference to this office for report, in duplicate, with return of paper, of Senate bill No. 3357, for the relief of Clinton F. Pulsifer, of the State of Washington. The bill provides for the payment of the sum of \$276.52 to the said Clinton F. Pulsifer for surveys and resurveys of public lands, section and township lines in township No. 14 north, range No. 9 west, Willamette base and meridian, duly accepted by the United States, but not heretofore paid for.

In connection with said bill I have the honor to report that in the settlement of the account of Clinton F. Pulsifer, United States deputy surveyor, for surveys and resurveys of public lands executed by him and accepted by this office under his

contract, No. 361, the said amount of \$276.52 was disallowed therein by this office, it being the amount claimed under said contract for resurveys of township and section lines, in township No. 14 north, range No. 9 west, State of Washington. The action of this office in disallowing payment to the deputy for such resurveys was caused by a decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury, rendered subsequent to the approval of the contract under which the work was performed, in which it was held that the appropriation act for the survey of public lands for the fiscal year 1895 (the year in which the work was executed) having failed to provide for the payment of resurveys or retracements, said appropriation was not available for the payment of such work.

In view of the fact that said resurveys were made under instructions of this office and were necessary in order for the deputy to complete the surveys under his contract, and that the rates charged for the service performed were in accordance with the rates authorized to be paid for surveys by the appropriation act for the fiscal year 1895, I have to recommend that the provisions of said bill be enacted in law.

Attention is invited to the fact that provision is made in the acts making appropriations for the survey of public lands prior and subsequent to the fiscal year of 1895 for the payment of resurveys and to the fact that appropriations to pay claims similar to the one embodied in said Senate bill No. 3357 were made by the deficiency acts of June 8, 1896 (29 Stats., 291), and July 19, 1897 (30 Stats., 127).

The bill is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

BINGER HERMANN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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